

WEST GERMANY

SECRET

Nov. 23, 1961

ROTHMANN, Dr. Franz, editor of the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, is stated to be the head of the Deutsches Industrie Institut. Dr. Rother is intimately associated with ROTHMANN, Dr. Emil, one of the leading figures of the Nauheimer Kreis. ROTHMANN visited Rother in the early part of April 1961 and tried to interest him in an official position in the DDR. ROTHMANN told Rother that through his (ROTHMANN's) Soviet contacts he could be placed in a position in which his talents could be better utilized than in the Western Zone. Rother stated that, though he had known ROTHMANN since 1930, he had declined ROTHMANN's offer because he had neither ideological nor material ties with him at this time. According to Rother, ROTHMANN has completely overshadowed ROTHMANN, Prof. Ulrich as an exponent of the Nauheimer Kreis and has strengthened his position by establishing valuable professional and social contacts with influential Soviet personalities.

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HOFFMANN, Dr. Fridolin,

a prominent East-West trade organizer and supporter and sympathizer of Professor Roach (Nauheimer Kreis) as well as a "journalist" is known to have been the source of several articles that have appeared in Realpolitik and in the Volkswirt. A July 17 item in Die Welt against the Osttag (Ost-Handelsgesellschaft), which claims to be based on information from the "Ostasiatischer Verein" of Hamburg, and the author of which is believed to be Wolf Schenke, was also inspired by Dr. Hoffmann. In various other cases, articles discussing a political subject have originated with Dr. Hoffmann. There is documentary evidence that Dr. Hoffmann and some of his close friends have direct contacts with prominent personnel in the Federal Ministry of Economics and Foreign Affairs. Dr. Hoffmann is himself a former member of the German Foreign Service (he was economic attaché at Bucharest), and has claimed to have influence on Dittmann, the former chief of Foreign Office Personnel. The Spiegel article on plans for the Saar may also have originated with Dr. Hoffmann or someone from his circle. D. 116, Bonn, 8/11/62

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